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JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
MEETING, JULY 15-17, 1981
AUGUST 1981
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
RECORDS

Joint Council Members and Alternates:

James H. Anderson, Cochairman
Anson R. Bertrand, Cochairman
A. R. Baldwin
Lark P. Carter
Mary E. Carter
K. Jane Coulter
Richard A. Farley
Kenneth R. Farrell
Raymond T. Floate
C. I. Harris
D. Mark Hegsted
R. J. Hildreth
Dawson Johns
Allan Johnson
John P. Jordan
Terry B. Kinney, Jr.
Fred B. Knight
Susan M. Oace
Merrill L. Petoskey
Denis Prager
Harold F. Robinson
Robert Lee Scarborough
George W. Sledge
Charles M. Smallwood
Alvin I. Thomas
W. I. Thomas
Gale VandeBerg
John G. Stovall, Executive Director
Susan G. Schram, Executive Secretary

Regional Council Representatives:

Signe Betsinger, Chairman, North
Central Regional Council
Betty Jean Brannan, Southern Regional
Council
H C Cox, Chairman, Western Regional
Council
Gilbert Porter, Chairman, Northeast
Regional Council

Speakers:

John Bode, Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Food and Consumer
Services
John Ford, Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Marketing and
Inspection
William Lesher, Assistant Secretary
for Economics
Ray Lett, Executive Assistant to
the Secretary
Seeley Lodwick, Under Secretary for
International Affairs and
Commercial Progress
Frank Naylor, Under Secretary for
Small Community and Rural
Development
Don Paarlberg, Professor Emeritus,
Purdue University
Richard Siegel, Acting Deputy
Assistant Secretary for Natural
Resources and Environment

Others Present:

Tom Adams, House Agriculture
Committee Staff
Claude Bennett, USDA/ES
J. M. Brazzel, USDA/S&E
Anita Brown, House Agriculture
Committee Staff
Beto Cadena, House Agriculture
Committee Staff Intern
E. L. Corley, USDA/S&E
Edwin A. Crosby, National Food
Processors Association
David Dyer, Senate Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
Staff
Walter L. Fishel, Ohio Agricultural
Research and Development Center

Others Present:

Kennan Garvey, USDA/OBPE
Al Grable, USDA/S&E
Bruce Greenshields, USDA/ERS
Sandra Grey, Office of the Secretary
Amy Horn, House Agriculture
Committee Staff Intern
Keith Huston, Director-at-Large,
North Central State Agricultural
Experiment Stations
William H. Kelly, University of
Vermont
Patricia B. Lewis, American Institute
of Biological Sciences
Ivory Lewis, House Agriculture
Committee Staff Intern
Yao-chi Lu, USDA/S&E
Robert Marshak, USDA/S&E
Wendy Marx, McGraw Hill
Connie McKenna, USDA/ES
Larry R. Miller, USDA/S&E
Chris Mosher, Assistant to the Secretary
Armand L. Padula, USDA/ARS
Dan Panchin, USDA/ES
Robert Reinsel, USDA/S&E
Helen Roberts, Association of American
State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
John S. Robins, Washington State University
John F. Schafer, USDA/S&E
E. L. Shafer, USDA/FS
Alice Skelsey, USDA/S&E
Juliana Smith, Office of the Secretary
James C. Summers, West Virginia University
Larry V. Summers, USDA/S&E
Paul Truitt, Agricultural Research Institute
Lydia Vacin, House Agriculture Committee
Staff Aide
George Waldman, USDA/OICD
Andy Weber, USDA/ES
Fred E. Westbrook, USDA/S&E

1. Presiding Cochairmen: James H. Anderson and Anson R. Bertrand

2. Membership

Cochairman Bertrand welcomed three new members to the Joint Council:

- James H. Anderson - Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University, who will serve as Council Cochairman;
- Alvin I. Thomas - President, Prairie View A&M University;
- Dawson Johns - farmer, Homer, Louisiana.

3. The Proceedings of the April 15-16, 1981, meeting of the Joint Council were approved.

4. Executive Committee Report

Cochairman Anderson reported that the Executive Committee met June 10 and July 15. Items discussed included:

a. Discussion with Chairman, Users Advisory Board

- Dr. John Pino, chairman, Users Advisory Board, joined the Executive Committee in June to discuss ways to improve Joint Council/Users Advisory Board interaction. The following suggestions were made during the discussion:
 - UAB members could provide input into key JC committees where the two groups have common interests (i.e., water).
 - UAB members could serve on JC committees or meet with JC committees as they begin their activities, schedules permitting.
 - The UAB should comment on the JC agenda for 1981.
 - The UAB should review the JC Executive Committee discussion at their meeting in Seattle, July 29-31.

b. GAO Report: Long-Range Planning for U. S. Agricultural Research and Development

- GAO staff joined the Executive Committee on June 10 to review this recent study done at the request of Congressman George Brown.

- The GAO feels that U. S. agricultural research and development is not being driven by a long-range plan.
- GAO recommends a needs assessment. Such a study would identify national goals for the U. S. food and agriculture system and research alternatives to achieve those goals.
- Advantages and disadvantages of decentralized planning were discussed at some length.
- The Cochairmen will respond in writing to the written draft of this report.

c. Increasing Public Understanding of Agricultural Science and Education

- A study group on this subject has recommended that the Joint Council sponsor the development of a brochure describing the food and agriculture science and education system and its benefits to the American public.
- This idea will be discussed further during this meeting.

d. Agricultural Productivity: White Paper

- At its April meeting, the Council approved commissioning a "white paper" documenting the most important elements of agricultural productivity, constraints or those elements and recommendations to enhance productivity in the future.
- Subsequent Executive Committee discussion suggested a more comprehensive effort that would result in a national plan for achieving productivity gain necessary to meet projected food needs, without deteriorating the U. S. resource base.
- Cochairman Bertrand will discuss with Ray Lett the possibility of placing the subject on the agenda of the Cabinet-level Council on Food and Agriculture.

e. Standing Committee on Water

- The Executive Committee concluded at its June meeting that the primary charge of a Joint Council Committee on Water should be to develop, or sponsor development of a national strategic plan for agricultural water resources research, extension, and teaching, and to gain acceptance for such a plan. Efforts

should be based on the draft five-year multi-agency plan coordinated by OSTP and OWRT.

- Members of this committee will include J. S. Robins, Washington State University, chairman; Keith Shea, Forest Service, USDA; Lowell Watts, Extension, Colorado State University; Marvin Jensen, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

f. 1981 Joint Council Annual Report

- The steering committee for this year's annual report will include: R. J. Hildreth, chairman; Mary Carter, and Richard Skok.

5. Science and Education Reorganization

Cochairman Bertrand updated the Council on changes that had been made as a result of the recent USDA reorganization:

- What was previously the Economics and Statistics Service is now two agencies: Economics Research Service and Statistical Reporting Service.
- The Agricultural Research Service, Extension Service, Cooperative State Research Service, and the National Agricultural Library are reestablished as agencies and report to the Secretary through the Director of Science and Education.
- The Director's office will include:
 - Joint Council and User's Advisory Board dedicated staff
 - Science and Education Coordination Staff
 - Office of Higher Education
 - Administrative Management
 - Information Staff
 - Legislative Officer.

6. Questions from Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block

- Joint Council members spent the greater part of July 15 and 16 sessions working in subgroups to formulate responses to questions asked of the Council by Secretary Block. Questions relate to Secretary Block's priority concerns in agricultural research,

extension, and teaching. Questions and answers are available as a companion piece to this document.

7. Dr. Don Paarlberg, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University, addressed the Luncheon session on Thursday, July 16. In his remarks on research and education in agriculture, Paarlberg noted:

- Contrary to "conventional wisdom," agricultural productivity is not leveling off and declining. When rates of change in total outputs, inputs, and productivity in American agriculture are examined, continued improvement in the efficiency of agricultural production is shown. This is particularly evident when contrasted with the decline in productivity in the non-agriculture sector.
- Experiment Station funding has diminished over time where funding for other agencies and organizations doing related research has increased. This is due to a variety of factors.
- Previously, the two functions of Land-Grant colleges (research and education) were mutually reinforcing -- research was neatly related to the function of training agricultural scientists. There was an enormous flow of new information and costs of doing research were lower.
- Now, however, new knowledge is more difficult to attain. Research dollars are going to institutions with a strong mission orientation, a multi-disciplinary team, large budgets, and extended time commitments. This represents a divergence from the traditional teaching/training role of Land-Grant colleges.
- The Land-Grant system must cope with this new environment by developing a mission orientation approach and incorporating it into the teaching/training function, or choosing to concentrate only on the teaching/training role.

8. Report of the Program Structure Study Group

- George Sledge, chairman, Program Structure Study Group, and Walter Fishel, Chairman of the Program Structure Staff Group, reported that progress had been made in further defining components of a common program structure for the food and agriculture science and education system.
- Elements of the common program structure include: (a) Program Categories that provide a fixed taxonomy for the aggregation of all

performer activities, (b) Thrust Areas that provide a non-permanent taxonomy of problem areas that may be of transient interest.

- The Council discussed the proposed Program Categories and adopted the following:

I. NATURAL RESOURCES

Land, Water and Air
Forests, Range and Wildlife

II. PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION

Plant Production
Plant Protection
Animal Production
Animal Protection
Production Systems

III. PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION

Food Systems
Non-food Systems
Food Quality and Safety

IV. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Human Nutrition and Consumer Programs
Individual and Family Development
Community and Rural Development

V. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Agriculture and Food Policy
Demand and Supply

VI. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Technical Information Systems
Administrative and Financial Support
Facilities Support
Expertise Development

- The Program Structure Staff was asked to further develop the proposed system, interact with the Program Structure Study Group, and report to the Council at its October meeting.

9. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy

- J. P. Jordan reported that the Joint Council Ad Hoc Committee on Energy has submitted a paper to the Secretary of Agriculture making several recommendations regarding energy programs in the USDA and highlighting major energy issues in American agriculture.
- The paper recommends that (a) the Secretary make a clear statement regarding the interest of the USDA in energy; (b) the Secretary seek White House approval to make direct budget requests for energy programs vs obtaining pass-through funds through the Department of Energy; (c) a Departmental energy coordinating committee be established; (d) the USDA reexamine technologies currently in place with the goal of reducing dependence on petrochemical energy; (e) the Secretary have direct input into policy issues that may have another department as a primary focal point, i.e., Department of Interior's Office of Water Research and Technology; (f) manpower must be developed for future energy programs, i.e., agricultural engineering.

10. Update: Integrated Pest Management

- J. P. Jordan reviewed a report prepared by John Mahlstede, chairman, Integrated Pest Management, updating the Council on progress in this area.
- In September of 1980, through SEA Director Bertrand and CR Administrator Walter Thomas, the Council provided a grant of \$5000 to each of the four regions to facilitate the research planning and development aspects of each region's projected integrated pest management program.
- In November of 1980, USDA-SEA and EPA-ORD, through an agency-COP steering committee, developed a Memorandum of Understanding in Integrated Pest Management. This MOU establishes the basis for interagency cooperation, joint management and planning mechanisms for transition of the 15 University IPM Consortium project and any future cooperative work, and a commitment to actively pursue and implement joint programs that will assist States in developing and carrying out effective IPM programs.
- Through the leadership of Dr. John F. Schafer, SEA, IPM Coordinator, a concerted effort has been made by a combined consortium of units within SEA and representatives of each of the four regional IPM committees (including representatives from ESCOP, ECOP and RICOP) to develop a blueprint for a coordinated effort in integrated pest management scheme. The major thrusts will be to: (a) develop regional efforts on selected agroecosystems applying IPM

- systems technology to reduce losses from pests including weeds, insects, diseases and nemotodes; (b) implement new developments in research and field trials using computers and the application of weather technology to field conditions; (c) develop more precise information delivery systems in support of IPM programs; (d) encourage development of IPM curricula and related programs in higher education; and (e) develop innovative approaches to pest control, thereby reducing crop losses and increasing productivity.
- Jordan reported that each region has selected different areas of focus for integrated pest management programs:
 - a. The Western Region program is focused on the two major agroecosystems found within the region: (1) semiarid irrigated -- once desert or semidesert lands, economically the larger agronomic production base; and (2) semiarid dryland -- wheat-fallow and most of the Western range, geographically the larger unit. The commodities identified are: (1) semiarid irrigated: cotton, sugarbeets, corn, potatoes, alfalfa, small grains, and (2) semiarid dryland: range, alfalfa, small grains.
 - b. The Southern Region selected livestock and soybeans for initial emphasis based on high losses from pests and economic importance of exports in maintaining a favorable trade balance.
 - c. The Northeastern Region identified potatoes, forage, and urban environments for priority attention.
 - d. The North Central Region identified corn, confined livestock and poultry, and potato production systems because of the economic significance of these commodity systems to all of the NCR States, and the magnitude of pest-induced losses -- 20 to 30 percent.
 - Dr. David Wimert of the American Chemical Society has spearheaded an effort to assemble a group of key decisionmakers and scientists to focus on strategies for enhancing the development of integrated pest management. The objectives of this conference would be to determine future direction over the next two decades. The conference, tentatively titled "Plant Protection in Transition," will be held in the spring of 1982.

11. Increasing Public Understanding of Agricultural Science and Education

- Harold Robinson, member of the Joint Council Study Group for Increasing Public Understanding, reported that this committee and the Executive Committee recommend the development of a brochure to increase general public understanding of the food and agriculture science and education system.

- Emphasis would be on describing the role and importance of the research and education system in assuring a secure food supply for the future.
- The Council discussed ongoing activities by ECOP, ESCOP, and RICOP in this area, and the importance of coordinating with these efforts.
- Council members suggested using additional methodologies, i.e., TV spots, radio spots, etc., especially in light of the current administration's emphasis on reducing publications and self-promotion activities.
- A brochure would be a good starting point and could serve as a resource for the development of additional promotional items at a later time.
- The Council voted to approve the idea and asked staff to provide a specific proposal, including an expanded outline for review by the Executive Committee.

12. Report from Regional Councils

a. Northeast

- Gilbert Porter, chairman, reported that the next meeting of the Northeast Regional Council will focus on (1) energy, (2) a work plan for the Council, and (3) animal health.
- The September 17-18 meeting of the Council will be held jointly with the Northeast Regional Research Committee at the Agway Farm Research Center in Syracuse, New York.
- The Northeast Regional Extension and Higher Education Committees will hold their initial meetings in the fall.

b. North Central

- Signe Betsinger, chairman, reported that the April 23, 1981, meeting of the North Central Regional Council in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, focused on the following areas: (1) concerns of the Joint Council and the National Higher Education, Agricultural Research, and Extension Committees; (2) the state of interest in regional committees; (3) the need to look at the future of human resources in agricultural extension, teaching and research; and (4) future plans for the North Central Regional Council.

- The research committee will be the only one of the three regional committees to be formally organized in the North Central Region.
- As a springboard for dealing with concerns on the future of human resources in agriculture teaching, research and extension, the North Central Regional Council reviewed the study entitled Research Productivity of the State Agricultural Experiment Station System: Measured by Scientific Publication Output by G. W. Salisbury, former director of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Keith Huston reported to the Council on the status of the North Central Computer Institute (Wisconsin). This system will maintain data banks on a regional basis that can be accessed by all States. The current status of computerization will be the focus of the next Regional Council meeting in Chicago (October or November 1981).
- Cochairman Bertrand suggested that the NCRC notify Ray Lett, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, of their interest in the computer area.
- The North Central Regional Council feels that more effective communication with the Joint Council is underway.

c. Southern

- Betty Jean Brannan, member, reported that the Southern Regional Council plans to meet in the fall. The three regional functional committees have been appointed, but have not met as yet.
- The Council will review the Report of the Joint Council Agenda Committee at its fall meeting. Water is likely to be an area of focus for the Southern Regional Council.

d. Western

- H C Cox reported that the Western Regional Council met in May.
- In the West, the regional committees for research, higher education, and extension (extension directors) wish to continue to be a part of the Regional Council.
- The Western Region Higher Education Committee resolved (1) "that the Users Advisory Board be asked to seriously consider the

great need for the development of professional manpower resources to provide extension and research expertise in the food and agricultural sciences" and (2) "that the Office of Higher Education and the planning associated with it be continued in the future."

- A representative from the Western Governors' Policy Office attended the WRC meeting and suggested that State institutions work more closely with Governors' offices in order to define areas of common interest and increase public and private support for agriculture.
- The WRC will focus on rangeland issues in the coming year. The three functional committees were challenged to report to the Council at its November meeting regarding needs in this area.
- The Western Regional Council suggested that it might sponsor a Conference on Exports to be held in the Western Region. Conference attendees (including industry representatives, shippers, packers, etc.) could explore their problems and needs and how research, extension, and higher education might be of assistance in meeting those needs.
- Cochairman Bertrand encouraged such an activity and recommended that the Foreign Agriculture Service be alerted and involved in the planning.
- Bertrand also cited his recent testimony before the House Committee on Science and Technology relating to the Technology Transfer Act of 1980. Bertrand encouraged all Regional Councils to look for ways and means to improve technology transfer.

13. Reports from National Committees for Agricultural Research, Extension and Higher Education

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Terry Kinney, cochairman, informed the Council that the next meeting of the National Agricultural Research Committee will be held October 1-2 in Washington, D. C.
- NARC will hear an update from W. B. Sundquist on progress in the technology assessment of corn, and will discuss applicability of procedures used in this project to technology assessment of other crops.

- NARC members will also discuss the budget process and the relationship of NARC to professional societies.

NATIONAL EXTENSION COMMITTEE

- James Summers reported that the National Extension Committee of the Joint Council met in Kansas City, Missouri, June 18-19, 1981. John Stovall joined the group and provided an update of Council interests and activities. He advised of the Council's request that the Extension Committee give special attention to technology transfer along with the other three priority areas of interest previously reported to the Council -- computer utilization and application, research base for Extension programming, and energy.
- At its June meeting, the Extension Committee directed its attention to computer utilization and application and the research base for Extension programming.
- The Extension Committee adopted two statements for submission to the Joint Council: (a) the first proposes that the Secretary of Agriculture formulate policy concerning the coordination and usage of computer technology in national Extension programs and that the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) create, in cooperation with the Administrator of the Extension Service, USDA, a task force to review and to develop a course of action designed to establish a national Extension computer center; (b) the second reflects the committee's concern for the adequacy of the research base for Extension programs.
- The National Extension Committee has scheduled its next meeting for September 1981, and will direct its attention to the topics of energy and technology transfer.
- The Cochairmen accepted the report with thanks and asked staff to prepare correspondence to the Secretary reflecting concerns about the coordination and usage of computer technology.

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Lark Carter reported that members have now been identified for the Workgroup on Food and Agricultural Education Information Systems (Jay Hughes, Dean, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Colorado State University, chair) and the Workgroup on the National Assessment of Curricula in the Food and Agricultural Sciences (John Brand, Associate Dean and Director of Resident Instruction, University of Connecticut, chair).

- Dr. E. Edward Wedman, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University, has been appointed as a liaison representative from the National Higher Education Committee to the National Research Committee and Dr. John Campbell, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, as liaison to the National Extension Committee.
- The top priority issues for 1981 as identified by the Joint Council -- Energy, Water, and Productivity -- are being called to the attention of Directors of Resident Instruction and others connected with instructional programs. General experience indicates that considerable emphasis is placed on productivity in most courses in technical agriculture. Methods for placing greater emphasis on energy and water in the instructional programs are being pursued. These items of priority will be discussed with various groups during summer conferences and meetings. Incorporating the issues of energy and water in instructional programs will be an agenda item at the November meeting of the National Committee on Higher Education.

14. Meeting with the Secretary's Staff

On July 17, the Council met with the Secretary's top staff to discuss issues relating to their various programs and review their suggestions for needed research and education programs:

Ray Lett, Executive Assistant to the Secretary -- Policy Formation in the Department

- Mr. Lett emphasized the commitment of the Secretary and himself to agricultural research and extension programs, their experience with both, and their interest in the goals and objectives of the Joint Council.
- Lett discussed the Cabinet Council policymaking structure put in place by the Reagan Administration. Secretary Block is a member of four councils and chairs the Council on Food and Agriculture.
- The Council on Food and Agriculture deals with crucial issues in world food and agriculture policy, i.e., international agricultural reserves, loss of primary U. S. agricultural land, and trade policies with other countries.
- To deal with issues within the Department, the Secretary is putting in place a series of committees that comprise the Secretary's Policy and Coordinating Council. This structure will enable the Secretary to receive input from disciplined agencies as well as public groups and to relay that input, where appropriate, to the Cabinet Council.

- Committees include: Science and Education (Bertrand, chairman); International Affairs and Commodity Programs Committee (Lodwick, chairman); Rural Development Committee (Naylor, chairman); Marketing and Inspection Committee (McMillan, chairman); Food and Consumer Services Committee (Jarratt, chairman); Natural Resources and Environment Committee (Crowell, chairman); Administration Committee (Schrote, chairman); and Regulatory and Legal Committee (Barnes, chairman).
- The Joint Council will be the Secretary's major public advisory board for agricultural research and education. Also, the Director of Science and Education, as chairman of the Science and Education Committee, will be responsible for highlighting Joint Council concerns and priority issues in sessions of this committee and with the full Policy and Coordinating Council.
- Council members expressed concern that Higher Education lacks visibility in this model.
- Lett responded that agricultural manpower development is an issue that crosscuts the various units and could be brought to the Secretary through this committee structure.
- Council members requested that the Secretary consider giving higher education a more visible role than is indicated in the current structure, that he recognize the Department's role in expertise development, and that he endorse the development of literature about agricultural careers for national distribution.
- Lett discussed an ongoing effort to improve information resources management within the USDA and increase use of new technologies to disseminate information to USDA clientele across the country.
- Objectives include: (a) accelerating dissemination of new information through increased use of new technologies; (b) interconnecting the many USDA data bases so that they may "talk" to one another; (c) maintaining decentralized management of computer technology; (d) assuring that the use of new technologies relates to program priorities and that program managers relate to its value.

John Ford, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Transportation

- Mr. Ford briefly reviewed agencies that report to Bill McMillan, Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Transportation: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Office of Transportation; Agricultural Marketing Service; Food Safety and Inspection Service; Agricultural Cooperative Service; Federal Grain Inspection Service; Packers and Stockyards.

- Mr. Ford encouraged the Council to share suggestions and thoughts with himself and Mr. McMillan regarding research and extension; the Council encouraged Mr. Ford to raise questions and inform them of needs in the marketing and transportation area.

Frank Naylor, Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development

- Naylor reviewed prospective fundamental policy shifts within this area in the Department.
- It is the view of this administration that, given the varying nature of agriculture throughout the country, nationally legislated and managed programs to develop new farmers and ranchers may not be serving the fundamental needs of agriculture.
- Naylor explained that (by crop year 1982) they hope to bring together a coordinated, local, peer group-monitored effort to encourage the development of new family farm and ranch enterprises.
- Under this plan, a county New Farmers Committee (composed of representatives from the Extension Service, ASCS, SCS, farm credit, and farm commodity groups) would be a focal point for referral of potentially successful new farmers. This committee would review and evaluate individuals, help them develop a five-year plan, and provide ongoing assistance. Farmers Home would provide initial financing with the goal of having the enterprise fully independent and on commercial credit in five to ten years.
- Successful retired farmers will be assigned to new farmers and ranchers to provide technical counseling and support.
- Extension will be looked to for leadership in this area.
- Naylor cited that the necessary research to determine how to effectively assist new farmers and ranchers and assure their highest potential for success has not been done.

Seeley Lodwick, Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs

- Lodwick cited commitments made by President Reagan that guide Departmental objectives: (a) placement of farmers in policy positions, (b) expansion of agricultural exports, (c) review of regulatory programs, (d) conservation of soil and water resources, (e) phasing out tax structure which forces families to sell farms and family-owned businesses, (f) assuring energy needs of agriculture community, and (g) development of an economic program.

- Lodwick's responsibilities include four agencies: Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS); Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS); Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).
- The mission of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service is primarily to carry out commodity legislation through its State and county offices. Lodwick cited the importance of soil conservation, especially in light of increased agricultural exports. He asked the Council's advice on the best use of Federal taxpayers' dollars to help implement soil conservation: (a) do we need to know more about technical practices; (b) do we need to know more about what it takes to get a farmer or landowner to apply conservation measures?
- The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has expanded considerably. This administration will involve the private sector as much as possible (re insurance, etc.) with FCIC monitoring these activities closely. Also, the Secretary has made the commitment this year that any county that grows any one of six "disaster" crops (rice, cotton, corn, wheat, barley, grain sorghum) will have "all peril" insurance.
- Research is needed in this area to decrease claims (i.e., soybeans that would recover more quickly from hail storm damage).
- The Office of International Cooperation and Development coordinates the exchange of scientific and technical personnel to and from other nations. OICD calls on personnel in research and extension for assistance. Ideas are needed on how to continue this program with effective and/or decreased use of taxpayers' dollars.
- OICD is working with Nigeria to increase relationships between U. S. and Nigerian private-sector companies. What other countries could we work with along these lines?
- The Foreign Agricultural Service is implementing this administration's thrust for additional agricultural exports. Barriers include:
(a) Increased income is needed in less developed countries so they are able to buy U. S. exports. What ideas can Council partners generate to increase per capita income in less developed countries? (b) Credit -- does the Council have knowledge of sums of money that can be used for helping to finance credit? (c) Removal of artificial barriers that prevent trade in agricultural commodities. Can Council partners shed light on how this can be accomplished?
- Responding to Council queries re the priority of energy self-sufficiency in agriculture, Lodwick asked for research and

extension input re how to produce energy at a lesser price and reduce energy we are now using, thus increasing net farm income.

Bill Lesher, Assistant Secretary for Economics

- Lesher explained that his responsibilities include the Economic Research Service (ERS); the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) and the Agricultural World Outlook Board.
- Lesher sees a priority need for quality, objective, professional economic research to be conducted by the Department, coordinated with activities in the physical sciences.
- In light of budget cuts, priority setting is crucial. Leadership is needed to determine broad future direction. The Joint Council can provide guidance to the Secretary in this area.
- Lesher seeks to coordinate efforts with the Director of Science and Education and to hear comments from the Joint Council regarding economics research priorities.
- Mary Carter, ARS, stated the necessity for technical and economic analyses to facilitate long-range planning and assist in priority setting.

Richard Siegel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

- Siegel stated that John Crowell, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment seeks the counsel of scientific research and technology on many issues and recognizes the interdependence of scientific and technical issues, i.e., soil science, forestry, and water science.
- Crowell's responsibilities include the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service.
- The Soil Conservation Service has produced a document entitled Research Progress and Needs: A Report from the Soil Conservation Service to the Science and Education Administration. Siegel cited from this document the need for increased research on effective use of scarce water resources (automated irrigation systems); conservation tillage practices; and issues that relate to soil loss vs productivity.
- Forest Service research needs reflect regional differences:
 - (a) Western -- range productivity, water efficiency, pest management;
 - (b) North Central and Southern -- forest regeneration;

(c) Northeastern -- market potential of hardwoods; abandoned strip mines. The Madison, Wisconsin, Forest Products Lab is interested in post-harvest issues, i.e., effective, efficient use of wood in home construction; development of by-products.

- Mr. Siegel looks forward to future coordination with the Joint Council on research and education issues.

John Bode, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services

- Bode highlighted agencies that now report to Mary Jarratt, Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services: Food and Nutrition Service (Food Stamp Program, Child Nutrition Programs); Human Nutrition Information Service (formed from the Food and Nutrition Information Center, Consumer Nutrition Center; Nutrition Information, Dietary Guidance Staff).
- The Human Nutrition Information Service (HNIS) was established as a result of the recent reorganization. HNIS will continue to perform the research and surveys that have contributed to understanding the nutritional status of the American population. Locating FNIC within HNIS provides for information dissemination with a strong data base. Nutrition information and education activities will draw upon research conducted by HNIS and by research centers of the Agricultural Research Service and other scientific groups.
- Nutrition education information by HNIS will take the form of information for the general public through print and electronic media; information for scientists and professionals through publications, educational programs and scientific conferences; technical assistance and support for educational programs, and technical guidance for food procurement, distribution, and regulatory programs.
- New HNIS initiatives will be determined in cooperation with the new Director, who will soon be hired. Current efforts underway, however, include: improving methods used in the nationwide food consumption survey; special analyses of the 1977-78 Food Consumption Survey; nutrition education research in four areas: eating patterns, food guidance, nutrition information, community nutrition education research.
- Linkages with Agricultural Research and the State Extension Services will continue.

15. Discussion with Extension, Experiment Station, and Resident Instruction Committees on Policy

Gale VandeBerg, Representing ECOP

- VandeBerg cited three areas of concern of the Extension Committee on Policy: (a) long-range planning, (b) staff priority setting, and (c) communications.
- ECOP is undertaking a long-range planning effort called "Extension in the Eighties" that will clarify Extension's policies, mission, and scope.
- The effort is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. A committee of 21 people will be appointed soon and will function for one year.
- ECOP is also concerned about increasing demands being placed on a declining number of staff; the ability of Extension to obtain, develop, and hold competent staff; and professional development for staff members. ECOP has proposed a plan for a national center and four regional centers for advanced study for Extension administrators.
- ECOP feels that increased effort and resources must go into the effectiveness and efficiency of extension communications -- internally and with the public. Additional emphasis must be placed on computerization, electronic mail, etc., so that less staff can communicate more expediently with increasing clientele. Also, interagency linkages at the county, State, and national levels need to be improved as well as relationships with industry and other media disseminating educational information.

Keith Huston, Chairman, ESCOP

- Huston emphasized that U. S. agriculture is enormously complex. As research systems are developed, we must rely upon strong State programs to remain close to the people and aware of State research needs.
- A principle concern of ESCOP is the adjustment of its relationships with USDA counterparts and its spokesmen in USDA. ESCOP hopes to rely heavily on the USDA to be a spokesman for the State and federally supported research systems. If there is a restricted perception of State activities at the national level, ESCOP will become increasingly vigorous and outspoken.

- ESCOP sees the need for an overview agency such as Science and Education with knowledge of and interest in both the State and Federal agricultural research systems.
- ESCOP maintains that it is crucial for national Cooperative State Research Service staff to have a broad-based, up-to-date understanding of projects underway at the State level. ESCOP believes that USDA staff should be given increased travel budgets to visit State stations.
- ESCOP feels that, in the last two years, the broad-range view of agricultural research is much improved. Science and Education staff is knowledgeable and has publicized both the State and Federal research efforts as part of the total national system.
- At the same time, Experiment Station Directors feel that national CSRS staff is weaker and hampered by travel, manpower, and budgetary restrictions.
- Huston feels that previously rigid descriptions of State/Federal roles are softening. Many State concerns are now regional, national, or international in scope, e.g., structure of agriculture, acid rain.
- In 1980, ESCOP produced a report called Research and the Family Farm. Committees are also working on the manpower issue (jointly with RICOP) and on agricultural exports. Subcommittee activities relate to animal welfare, DNA and genetic engineering, pesticide impacts, computers, structure of agriculture. Effort will also be devoted to socializing Congress, the general public, etc., to the benefits of agricultural research.
- Huston recognized recent accomplishments of B. R. Eddleman toward understanding the benefits of agricultural research and of Ruttan, Evanson, and others in examining the national agricultural research system and appropriate roles for the various sectors.

William Kelly, Chairman, RICOP

- The Resident Instruction Committee on Policy has three major concerns regarding teaching in agricultural higher education: (a) projected manpower shortages, (b) the need for recognition and increased funding of higher education at the national level, (c) the need for a comprehensive data base for higher education.
- RICOP is concerned that, although the 1977 Farm Bill mandated the role of USDA in agricultural higher education, due to lack of funding, it never came to fruition. RICOP would like to see a strong national voice for higher education in agriculture.

- RICOP fully supports the increasing need for good research and extension programs, but personnel must be provided by a strong nationwide teaching program. This must be recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture and at the White House level.
- The potential of regional programs is being examined. Where resources are limited, regional teaching programs may be initiated.
- Alice Skelsey suggested that the Science and Education information staff could meet with RICOP to design promotional publicity highlighting various agricultural careers and the need for manpower development. Secretary Block could be asked to endorse these materials.
- Lark Carter read a motion (contributed by George Sledge):

"...that the Executive Committee of Joint Council be authorized to develop a statement to go to Secretary Block regarding the (a) need for development of agricultural expertise at higher education level, (b) a recommendation that Higher Education be given visibility on the organizational chart for the Secretary's Policy and Coordination Council, under the Research and Extension Committee, and (c) encouraging that a representative group meet with Secretary Block to discuss the critical nature and need for agricultural expertise development on a Federal/State partnership basis."
- The motion was tabled and will be addressed by the Executive Committee in September.

16. 1983 Budget for Science and Education

- Anson Bertrand commented on the FY 1983 budget materials recently submitted to Secretary Block, citing some of the areas emphasized.
- Representatives of ECOP, ESCOP, and RICOP were involved at each stage of the budget development process.
- The Director of Science and Education and staff will present the budget to the Secretary on August 6.
- The 1982 budget has been marked up in the House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees. Presently, the House has decreased the President's budget for science and education by \$8,356,000 and the Senate has increased the budget by \$12,657,000.

